

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-48 (Canceled)

49. (New) Transportation apparatus for transportation of an inspection device within a body cavity, the apparatus comprising:

a carrier for insertion into an opening of the body cavity, the carrier moveable between a collapsed position and an extended position where the carrier extends along a length of the cavity; and

a guide member coupled to the carrier, the guide member adapted to be carried into the cavity by the carrier when the carrier is moved to the extended position, such that the guide member acts as a guide for transportation of the inspection device within the cavity.

50. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the guide member is moveable between a relaxed state and a rigid state, the guide member acting as a guide when in the rigid state.

51. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 50, wherein the guide member is adapted to be carried into the cavity in the relaxed state and adapted to be moved to the rigid state following movement of the carrier to the extended position.

52. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 50 wherein the guide member is reversibly moveable between the rigid state and the relaxed state.

53. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 50 wherein the guide member is lockable in the rigid state.

54. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the guide member is at least partly rigid.

55. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 54, wherein the guide member comprises an endoscope.

56. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the guide member is releasably coupled to the carrier.

57. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 56, further comprising a releasable coupling for releasably coupling the guide member to the carrier.

58. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the coupling comprises a shape memory alloy (SMA) coupling.

59. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the guide member defines a plurality of engagement portions adapted to be engaged by an inspection device for transportation of the device within the cavity.

60. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 58, wherein the guide member comprises an elongate support with a plurality of engagement portions mounted on the support.

61. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 60 when dependent on claim 2, wherein the engagement portions are movably mounted on the elongate support and wherein the elongate support is tensionable to move the guide member to the rigid state.

62. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 59 wherein the engagement portions comprise bodies defining an engagement surface.

63. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49 wherein the guide member includes a plurality of locking elements for locking the guide member in a rigid state.

64. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein the locking elements comprise shape memory alloy (SMA) locks.

65. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 63 wherein the locking elements comprise a first set of locking elements adapted to be actuated to rigidise the guide member and a second set of locking elements adapted to be actuated to relax the guide member.

66. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein the first and second sets of locking elements are adapted to be actuated at different temperatures.

67. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 63 wherein the guide member is electrically conductive to allow an electric current to be passed along the guide member, for actuation of the locking elements.

68. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the carrier is flexible when in the collapsed position and adapted to be constrained by a wall of the body cavity when in the extended position.

69. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the carrier is inflatable.

70. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein the carrier comprises an inflatable elongate balloon.

71. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 70, wherein the carrier is adapted to be inserted into the opening of the body cavity in an everted position.